

The Hawaiian Star

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FRANK L. HOOBS

MANAGER

MONDAY DECEMBER 30, 1907

Truth Stranger Than Drama

One might search the drama and fiction for a more strange and thrilling scene than that being enacted today in Highgate cemetery, as told by cables from London. It is the opening of a coffin which for more than forty years had rested beneath an impressive monument in memory of Thomas Charles Druce, with a view to settling a claim of litigants seeking princely estates, that the casket contains only lead or stones instead of the human remains to which the impressive stone was so long ago dedicated. In brief the claim is that this Druce was the Duke of Portland and that he had two lives and families. Deciding in 1805 to give up one family, he proceeded to "die" as Druce and duly arranged his funeral. Druce was wealthy, and a coffin loaded with lead, but supposed to contain his remains, was solemnly lowered into a magnum's grave. The Duke lived on. He was wealthier far than Druce and it is a Druce who is now prosecuting an action to obtain the estates of the Duke of Portland. It was in 1879 that the last Duke died and he was succeeded by a distant cousin. Hence if the present claimant can prove that Druce was the Duke, he can claim title and property, as a direct descendant.

Truly it will be a solemn moment for all concerned when the coffin in Highgate is opened to the light of day, after nearly half a century. No more dramatic settling of a cold legal dispute could be conceived. Sworn testimony has been given by one descendant that he saw the dead Druce in the coffin, by another that he saw the coffin full of lead. So the court went to the grave and undertook the removal of massive stones to open the coffin and look on the dust of Thomas Druce—or the lead.

Strange Report Full of Error

Hawaii ranks second in official reports in the matter of healthfulness as a military post. Alaska being first. Local public bodies should take up in vigorous manner any report that may have been made suggesting dangerous health conditions as a reason for not increasing the Kahaniki post. Such a report indicates ignorance or prejudice, or both, on the part of its author and is a reflection on those who selected the site of the present forts. To have based it on danger of yellow fever—never known in Hawaii—looks like a search for a pretext. The United States has established plenty of posts where there are yellow fever mosquitoes and yellow fever too—it has such posts today in constant communication with yellow fever lands, which are between two and three thousand miles distant from Kahaniki. In making these remarks it is assumed, for argument's sake that there is truth in the report that the stegomyia fasciata—the mosquito in question—exists in the rice fields near Kahaniki. There is the very high authority of Director Jared G. Smith, who has made elaborate investigations locally, for saying that this mosquito is not in the Kahaniki swamps and it appears to be a well known fact among investigators that the insect "lives and breeds almost altogether in houses and their immediate neighborhood." The report against Kahaniki therefore besides being grossly unfair if considered as founded on facts, is not only based upon misstatements inexcusable because the truth was known from local investigation, but goes out of its way to assume a condition near Kahaniki different from what has been ordinarily found in other places. It is certainly a very strange report,—if it was made.

President Roosevelt has expressed himself as favoring a rearrangement of the present quarantine service. Sounds as if he had visited Hawaii and seen it in action.

Women on Battleships

There is an agitation now for women in the navy, and perhaps they may soon be found on war vessels. "Long ago they invaded the army as nurses, and but their exclusion from navy vessels is absolute." "That women are not employed in any way as nurses in connection with the navy is perhaps to some a greater surprise than to learn that congress is to be petitioned by those having such matters in charge to make provision for women nurses in the navy," says the St. Paul Dispatch. "The need, the demand, for women nurses has been so general, and they have given such distinguished, such gallant service to the army, always, and particularly in time of war, that it might have been supposed women nurses in the navy were possible without act of congress, and were, at least under peace conditions, already doing their work. That the naval doctors have had to ask for such provision proves at least that condition do rise which demand woman in certain places, even in such belligerent places, as battleships, and that she has a service to render there which cannot be given by men and must be given by her, that she is called to this service, instead of demanding that she be permitted it."

"The permission sought from congress is that not only shall women nurses perform hospital duty for the navy, have charge of the naval sick on shore, but that in times of war women nurses shall be carried on the battleships and other ships of the fleet, where her service is as much needed as it is in time of land-war on the very edge of battle. These battleship positions will not be easy to fill, nor the duties easy to fulfill. Such service in time of war will have about it a quality of heroism, will demand such a high type of woman, that only the most efficient nurses in the corps could be offered the places. But the naval physicians know well that there are women who can fill these duties, and they know that the war of the sea brings about emergencies which demand just the service that women alone can give."

"In the sorting out of positions to be filled by men, by women, the real needs of the world, and the real adaptabilities, will be regarded, by a higher law than that under which we operate while the temporary makeshift goes on, resulting so often in misfits."

Tales Worth Telling

TRULY OPTIMISTIC.

Samuel Gompers, while attending the convention of the National Civic Federation in Chicago got into an argument with a banker.

At the end of one of the banker's assertions, Mr. Gompers retorted gayly:

"Yes, it is possible to say a good word for almost any state of things, isn't it? I remember once, in a very outlandish chop-house in Syracuse, hearing a guest exclaim as he took up a soiled bill-of-fare:

"By Jove, what an excellent idea—samples of the various dishes glued to the menu!"

GOOD BUSINESS.

George D. Cortelyou, the Secretary of the Treasury, was talking at a dinner about the recent panic.

"There's a story about a well-known railroad man in the panic that is almost too good," said Mr. Cortelyou. "This man is kind-hearted, and he was deeply moved by a letter that a country parson wrote him when things were looking their worst.

"The letter ran like this:

"Dear Sir: As the pastor of the Church, my aim has always been investment and not speculation. Regarding your railroad as a sound business institution, solid as a rock, in 1904 I purchased 400 of its shares at 100, sinking my little all in them, and a great deal more. They have now fallen to 55, and I am undone. My congregation I cannot face as a bankrupt, and at my age—seventy-two years—what am I to do? I throw myself upon your mercy."

"Well," said Mr. Cortelyou "the banker read this letter several times, and each time his pity for the poor old parson increased. Finally, calling in his stenographer, he wrote to the man that, considering the sad and pitiful circumstances of the case, he would himself buy back the 400 shares at 100 the price the parson had paid for them. "Immediately on receipt of this generous letter, the parson wired to his brokers.

"Buy 400 Dash Railway at 55, and send same round to Dash's president, who will give you 100 for them."

DIDN'T USE HIS OWN GOODS.

William J. Bryan, on his last visit to New York, declined to answer one of a Washington correspondent's questions.

"I shouldn't know my business if I answered such a question as that," said Mr. Bryan, smiling. "Every one must know his business; otherwise failure follows; and I'm sure you wouldn't want me to fall like the young salesmen of fountain pens."

"There was, you know, a young fountain pen salesman who, to his great joy, succeeded on his first trip in persuading a stationer to order 500 pens. But all of a sudden the stationer's manner changed to the young man.

"I countermand that order," he barked and hurried into his private office, slamming the door behind him.

"Later in the day his bookkeeper said to this stationer:

"May I ask, sir, why you so suddenly countermanded your order for those fountain pens?"

"The young salesman," the other answered, "booked my order in lead pencil."

KNEW HIM

It was difficult to hire competent or even incompetent help in Eden Centre and the computers in that idyllic spot had learned resignation.

"Harold," said Mrs. Crandall, "I haven't seen anything of that man who was to mow our lawn. Where do you suppose he is? There, I believe that's he now, over in Meade's orchard."

"Is he standing?" inquired Mr. Crandall.

"Yes," said his wife, "he's standing under one of the big trees looking toward our house."

"That can't be the man," said Mr. Crandall. "He'd be sitting or lying down."

MANILA EARTHQUAKE.

MANILA, Nov. 30.—One girl lost her life and a woman was seriously injured by the collapse of a building during the earthquake last Sunday evening in Libon, Albay. Fifty-eight houses and a church were totally destroyed by the temblor in the same town.

This information was received at the Executive Bureau yesterday morning from Governor Reynolds of Albay. The dispatch states that reports from Libon state that a very severe earthquake was felt in that city. The property losses are estimated at P70,000.

EDITORIAL SNAPSHOTS.

Japanese laborers continue to arrive in numbers which do not indicate any particular race prejudice.—Washington Star.

At present it looks more like Roosevelt that anybody else.—Birmingham News.

"There will be a further drop in the prices of provisions and meats," says an Armour manager. "Further?" Has any one noticed the previous drop.—New York World.

The opinion that trusts are a bad thing seems to be unanimous, for it will be remembered that not a single

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trust has ever yet admitted that it was a trust.—Galveston News.

Illinois farmers in numbers are taking to motoring. Modern prosperity represented by 40 acres and an automobile marks a considerable advance over the ancient regime of 40 acres and a mule.—St. Louis Post.

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